

VALLEY CATHOLIC SCHOOL 2011-12

TRAFFIC FLOW & PARKING INSTRUCTIONS

Overview:

With the completion of the Elementary & Middle School, the traffic flow for drop-off and pick-up from Valley Catholic School will change from previous years. This document is meant to explain the changes and best practice procedures that will help make this part of our daily experience on campus as easy as possible.

Before breaking down the procedures by building, it is important to realize some basic guidelines to driving and parking on campus. All drivers are expected to follow these rules at all times when on campus.

- **Drive the speed limit:** the speed limit on campus is not to exceed 10 mph at any time. This is for the safety and protection of all the people that are on our campus each day.
- **Be alert to your surroundings:** our campus has nearly 1000 students on it each day and some of them are not as cautious as they should be walking on campus.
- **Be courteous:** treat other drivers on campus as you would like to be treated.
- **Follow the rules:** drivers that make their own rules or ignore the campus rules make it that much tougher on all of the other drivers that follow the rules. In addition, follow the instructions and directions given by Valley Catholic faculty/staff members and parent volunteers on duty.

Parking:

The good news is that additional parking spots have been added with the completion of the new building and the reorganization of the gravel parking lot. Also, the area by the old Elementary School that was used for pick-up and drop-off in years past will now be available parking. While all of these adjustments have created more spots for people to park on campus, there will still be times when finding a spot may be difficult.

It is important that all drivers adhere to the signs that are posted in regards to parking on campus. As was the rule in the past, drivers are not allowed to park anywhere on campus that is marked reserved or is along a red curb. Violators of these rules will face consequences, including towing of their vehicle at their expense.

We have designated a couple of areas with “No Parking 7:00 – 3:30 p.m.” signs. The half-circle just south of the auditorium will now be a pick up and drop off spot for parents so parking is not allowed during regular school hours. Also, there are two areas on 148th Ave that have the same “No Parking 7:00 – 3:30 p.m.” signs to allow for pick-up/drop-off and to alleviate congestion during the main intersection on campus.

This year 12th grade students are the only students that will be able to park in the parking lot by the Eagles Gym. All other students that drive to school will be required to park in the gravel parking lot. In addition, the angled parking spots directly in front of the former MS modular classrooms will not be used for student parking of any kind during school days.

EARLY LEARNING SCHOOL

The traffic flow and rules for parents of children in the Early Learning School have not changed. Parents are still asked to enter the campus on St. Mary’s Drive and follow that road until they enter the drop-off area just in front of the school building. Parents may exit the campus by turning left out of the Early Learning School entrance area or continue straight along the road directly in front of the new building.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Drop-off in the A.M.

The two-lane area directly in front of the main doors to the new building will be the most common place for parents to pick up and drop off students. The lane along the curb and closest to the school is a “No Parking” area where drivers are

only allowed to stop and drop off students. The outside lane (closest to St. Mary's Drive) is for people to use to exit this area. Drivers CANNOT stop and drop off while in the outside lane because this will clog up the area.

In order to access the two-lane area in front of the school, cars are to enter the campus on St. Mary's Drive and follow the queue lane. When they get to the stop sign along St. Mary's Drive they will be directed to turn right and then curve to the left to enter this two-lane area. Please be aware of the Early Learning School traffic that is leaving their drop off area by turning left in front of the queue lane.

In order to alleviate some of the congestion directly in front of the new building, we are proposing some additional spots where parents can drop their students without having to go through the queue lane. The easiest of these spots will be the half-circle just south of the HS auditorium. Students who are dropped off here will be able to use the cross walk to get across St. Mary's drive and enter the new building. The entrance to the campus from Murray Blvd. will not be blocked so for families coming up Murray, this option will likely be the easiest.

Many of our Elementary School parents prefer to park and walk their child into the building. The best place to park and walk a child to the new building is in the parking lot by the Eagles Gym. Parents and students can use one of the crosswalks to get across St. Mary's Drive and get to the new building. This parking lot can also be used as a place to drop students off who are old enough to navigate the cross walk to get to the new building.

Pick-Up in the P.M.

The pick-up for Elementary School students will take place right in front of the new building. Drivers are to enter the campus on St. Mary's Drive and follow the queue lane to the front of the building. School employees will be outside relaying the numbers of the cars that are arriving to the classrooms so that students will be ready to be picked up right in front of the main doors.

This year families that have students in both the Elementary and Middle School will have the option of picking both students up when the Middle School is released. Elementary School students with Middle School siblings (or carpool partners) will gather in the library to study until the Middle School pick-up time.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Drop-off in the A.M.

As with the Elementary School, the most logical place to drop-off students will be directly in front of the main doors to the new building ([hyperlink to ES instructions](#)). However because they are older and more responsible, Middle School students can also be dropped in other areas on campus and will be able to use the crosswalks to get to the new building.

The two best places to drop a Middle School student without using the queue lane are the half-circle just south of the HS Auditorium and the parking lot by the Eagles Gym. Another useful spot to drop Middle School students will be on 148th Ave along the curb by the new parking lot. These spots are signed for "No Parking 7:00 – 3:30 p.m." so that they can be used for dropping off students. Please make sure your child exits the vehicle on the curbside instead of the side of the vehicle that will require them to be in the way of traffic on 148th Ave.

Pick-Up in the P.M.

Pick up for the Middle School students will take place in many of the same areas that are used for drop-off. The majority of the students will likely be picked up directly in front of the school while others may find it easier to have students use the crosswalks and meet them in the parking lot by the Eagles Gym.

HIGH SCHOOL

The pick-up and drop-off for the High School has not changed dramatically for this year. In many ways, the transition of the Middle School students into the new building should provide some relief for drivers in front of the high school.

The biggest changes for High School drivers will be the adjustments in parking. The half-circle just south of the High School auditorium is a "No Parking 7:00 – 3:30 p.m." area so that it can be used for drop-off and pick-up of students. In addition, only 12th grade students are allowed to park in the parking lot by the Eagles gym during the school day. All

other students are to park in the gravel lot. Students are not allowed to park in the spots in front of the high school during the school day. Finally, the angled parking spots directly in front of the old Middle School modular classrooms are not to be used by any students (including 12th grade drivers) during the school day.

A lot of time and consideration has gone into making this traffic flow plan for our campus. However, I know that the first few weeks of school will give us plenty of information about how successful our plan will be going forward. If necessary, adjustments will be made to this plan. Our goal is to create the easiest, safest, and most logical way for all of our families to navigate our campus. Please help us with this goal by following the rules and working with others.